



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
OS-2019-01194

August 20, 2019

Via email: 78582-85213321@requests.muckrock.com

Mr. Jimmy Tobias  
MuckRock News  
Dept. MR 78582  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Tobias:

On August 5, 2019, you filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the following:

*Any and all communications sent or received by Benjamin Cassidy on any self-deleting or encrypted cellphone applications, including Signal, Confide, Telegram or WhatsApp. This request also seeks a screenshot of all applications on Mr. Cassidy's phone. This request only seeks records sent or received by Mr. Cassidy in his capacity as a government official. This request seeks records since June 1, 2019.*

Your request was received in the Office of the Secretary FOIA office on August 5, 2019, and assigned control number **OS-2019-01194**. Please cite this number in any future correspondence or communications with the Office of the Secretary regarding your request.

We have classified your request as a “media use request.” As a “media use requester” you will not be charged for our search or review costs and are entitled to up to 100 pages of photocopies (or an equivalent volume) for free. [See 43 C.F.R. § 2.39](#). As a matter of policy, however, the Department of the Interior does not bill requesters for FOIA fees incurred in processing requests when their fees do not exceed \$50.00 because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. [See 43 C.F.R. § 2.49\(a\)\(1\)](#).

You can expect to hear from us promptly regarding the outcome of this search.

You have asked for copies of agency records. According to our regulations, you may choose the format of disclosure for such records. Unless you specify otherwise, the Office of the Secretary

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will provide copies of responsive records on a CD-ROM disk as scanned PDF images when the responsive records exceed 50 pages.

Because we will need to consult with one or more bureaus of the Department in order to properly process your request, the Office of the Secretary FOIA office is taking a 10-workday extension under 43 C.F.R. §2.19. For the same reason, we are placing your request under the "Normal" processing track. [See 43 C.F.R. §2.15.](#)

In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the status of your request, or any of the issues discussed in this letter, you may contact Cindy Sweeney by phone at (202) 513-0765, by fax at (202) 219-2374, by e-mail at [os\\_foia@ios.doi.gov](mailto:os_foia@ios.doi.gov) or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St, N.W., MS-7328 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Clarice Julka.

Sincerely,

Clarice Julka  
FOIA Officer  
Office of the Secretary